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Agenda item 57

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Ms. Denise **McQuade** (Ireland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2009, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fourth session the item entitled:

"Eradication of poverty and other development issues:

"(a) Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (200 8-2017);

"(b) Women in development;

"(c) Human resources development"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee held a substantive debate jointly on sub-items (a) and (b) at its 18th and 19th meetings, on 22 October 2009, and on sub-item (c) at its 24th meeting, on 28 October. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/64/SR.18, 19 and 24). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 7th meetings, from 5 to 7 October (see A/C.2/64/SR.2-7). Action was taken on the item at the 20th and 41st meetings on 23 October and 9 December (see A/C.2/64/SR.20 and 41). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item will be provided in the addenda to the present report.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in four parts, under the symbol A/64/424 and Add.1-3.

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Item 57
Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Report of the Secretary-General on the legal empowerment of the poor and the eradication of poverty (A/64/133)

Letter dated 6 March 2009 from the representative of the Sudan to the Secretary-General (A/64/65)

Letter dated 30 September 2009 from the representative of the Sudan to the Secretary-General (A/64/489)

Item 57 (a)
Implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)

Oral report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of efforts related to the theme for the Second Decade (see A/C.2/64/SR.18)

Item 57 (b)
Women in development

Report of the Secretary-General on integrating a gender perspective into national development strategies (A/64/162 and Corr.1)

Report of the Secretary-General on the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (A/64/93)

Item 57 (c)
Human resources development

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development (A/64/329)

4. At the 18th meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under the agenda item and sub-item (a)) and the Officer-in-Charge of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-item (b)) (see A/C.2/64/SR.18).

5. At the same meeting, the Acting Director of the Division for Social Policy and Development responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Bangladesh, the United Republic of Tanzania, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (see A/C.2/64/SR.18).

6. At its 24th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (under sub-item (c)) (see A/C.2/64/SR.24).

7. At the same meeting, the Director of the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination responded to a question posed by the representative of the Sudan (see A/C.2/64/SR.24).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/64/L.4 and Rev.2

8. At the 20th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Switzerland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty" (A/C.2/64/L.4), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 63/142 of 11 December 2008,

"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing* that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

"*Recognizing also*, in this regard, that access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business are mutually reinforcing and essential components in the effective eradication of poverty,

"*Stressing* in this context the importance of the applicable international human rights instruments,

"*Reaffirming* that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

"*Stressing* that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieve equitable and effective development and to foster a vibrant economy, and reaffirming its commitment to eliminate gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in the ownership of assets and property rights, and to promote women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstream gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and give women full and equal access to economic resources,

"*Reaffirming* that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account

national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Takes note* of the report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, as a useful reference to guide policy dialogue and action at the international and national levels, bearing in mind the importance of national circumstances, ownership and leadership;

"3. *Takes note* of the broad diversity of national experiences in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, recognizes the initiatives taken and progress made by countries, including developing countries, in advancing legal empowerment of the poor as an integral part of their development strategies and objectives, and stresses the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices;

"4. *Welcomes* in this regard the ongoing work of the United Nations funds and programmes as well as of the specialized agencies;

"5. *Emphasizes* the importance of access to justice by the poor and in this regard encourages the strengthening and improvement of the administration of justice and identity and birth registration systems, as well as awareness-raising concerning existing legal rights;

"6. *Recognizes* that respect for the rule of law and property rights, and pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, encourage business formation, including entrepreneurship, empowerment and poverty eradication;

"7. *Reiterates* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at respective national levels to promote employment and decent work for all and to protect labour rights, including through respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work proclaimed by the International Labour Organization as a foundation for building the legal codes and collective agreements needed to effectively govern labour markets and workplaces;

"8. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at respective national levels to promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector as a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, and encourages the promotion of an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable;

"9. *Encourages* countries to promote the four pillars of legal empowerment of the poor, namely, access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business by incorporating these dimensions into their national development policies and strategies and making them an integral part of their eradication of poverty efforts;

"10. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty, and upon countries in a position to do so to support the effective national efforts of developing countries in promoting legal empowerment of the poor through adequate, predictable financial resources or technical assistance, on either a bilateral or multilateral basis, and

in this regard, recognizes the important contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote stronger coherence and coordination of the United Nations system in integrating the dimensions of access to justice, property, labour and entrepreneurship into policies and strategies to eradicate poverty;

"12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in preparing the background documentation for the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2010, to duly take into account the present resolution;

"13. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of this resolution, under the item entitled 'Eradication of poverty and other development issues', taking into account national experiences and the views of Member States in this regard."

9. At its 41st meeting, on 9 December, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty" (A/C.2/64/L.4/Rev.2), submitted by Andorra, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay.

10. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Committee agreed to the proposal of the Chairperson to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.4/Rev.2.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was advised that the revised draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the 41st meeting, the representative of Guatemala announced that Cyprus, Djibouti, Eritrea, Lithuania, Montenegro, Poland, Seychelles and Slovakia had joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

13. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, the Czech Republic, Lesotho, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

14. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/64/L.4/Rev.2 (see para. 16).

15. Before the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Nicaragua, Cuba, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); after the adoption of the revised draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Colombia, Sweden (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (see A/C.2/64/SR.41).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Legal empowerment of the poor and eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[1]

Recalling also its resolution 63/142 of 11 December 2008,

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development[5] and the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,[6]

Reaffirming the importance of the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reiterating that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Remaining committed to the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Concerned by the global nature of poverty and inequality and reaffirming that eradicating poverty is one of the greatest global challenges facing the world today, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries, and underlining the importance of accelerating sustainable broad-based and inclusive economic growth, including full, productive employment generation and decent work,

Stressing that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing the economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels,

Recognizing that empowerment of the poor is essential for the effective eradication of poverty and hunger,

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[1] See resolution 60/1.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[6] Resolution 63/303, annex.

Recognizing also, in this regard, that access to justice and the realization of rights related, inter alia, to property, labour and business are mutually reinforcing and essential determinants of the effective eradication of poverty,

Taking note of the report of the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor, entitled *Making the Law Work for Everyone*, as a useful reference in the area of eradication of poverty,[7]

Reaffirming that the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger,

Stressing that gender equality and women's empowerment are essential to achieving equitable and effective development and to fostering a vibrant economy, and reaffirming its commitment to eliminating gender-based discrimination in all its forms, including in the labour and financial markets, as well as, inter alia, in respect of the ownership of assets and property rights, to promoting women's rights, including their economic empowerment, and effectively mainstreaming gender in law reforms, business support services and economic programmes, and to giving women full and equal access to economic resources,

Reaffirming that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized in the achievement of sustainable development, and recognizing that national efforts should be complemented by supportive global programmes, measures and policies aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty,

Deeply concerned by the significant challenges that the financial and economic crisis poses for the eradication of poverty, and in this regard reiterating that national efforts should be complemented by an enabling international environment, to ensure the achievement of a more inclusive, equitable, balanced, development-oriented and sustainable economic development that would help to overcome poverty and inequality,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[8]

2. *Also takes note* of the broad diversity of national experiences in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, recognizes the initiatives undertaken and progress made by some countries in advancing legal empowerment of the poor as an integral part of their national strategies and objectives, and stresses the importance of promoting the sharing of national best practices;

3. *Welcomes* in this regard the ongoing work of the United Nations funds and programmes as well as of the specialized agencies;

4. *Emphasizes* the need to accord the highest priority to poverty eradication within the United Nations development agenda, while stressing the importance of addressing the causes and challenges of poverty through integrated, coordinated and coherent strategies at the national, intergovernmental and inter-agency levels;

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[7] Available from www.undp.org/LegalEmpowerment/reports/concept2action.html.

[8] A/64/133.

5. *Also emphasizes* the importance of access to justice for all, and in this regard encourages the strengthening and improvement of the administration of justice and identity and birth registration systems, as well as awareness-raising concerning existing legal rights;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the rule of law and property rights, and the pursuit of appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, inter alia, encourage business formation, including entrepreneurship, and contribute to poverty eradication;

7. *Reiterates* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote employment and decent work for all and to protect labour rights, including through respect for the fundamental principles and rights at work proclaimed by the International Labour Organization;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of pursuing appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks at national levels to promote a dynamic, inclusive, well-functioning and socially responsible private sector as a valuable instrument for generating economic growth and reducing poverty, and encourages the promotion of an enabling environment that facilitates entrepreneurship and doing business by all, including women, the poor and the vulnerable;

9. *Encourages* countries to continue their efforts in the area of legal empowerment of the poor, including access to justice and the realization of rights related to property, labour and business, addressing both formal and informal settings by taking into account those dimensions in their national policies and strategies, while bearing in mind the importance of national circumstances, ownership and leadership;

10. *Emphasizes* that education and training are among the critical factors in empowering those living in poverty, and in this regard calls for action at all levels to give high priority to improving and expanding literacy, while recognizing the complexity of the challenge of poverty eradication;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to give priority to the eradication of poverty and calls upon countries in a position to do so to support the national efforts of developing countries in promoting legal empowerment of the poor through the provision of adequate, predictable financial resources or technical assistance;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit" and to continue the consideration of legal empowerment of the poor, taking into account national experiences and the views of Member States.